

LARE Funding Policies

Under present rules, the LARE program may fund 75 percent of the cost of construction actions up to \$100,000 for a specific project, or \$300,000 for all projects on a specific lake or stream. The Lake and River Enhancement program also will cost-share up to 80 percent on approved watershed land treatment practices. LARE may fully fund diagnostic or feasibility studies, design plans, and special projects, although a 10 percent local cost share is typical.

The program does not fund construction of shoreline improvements for recreational purposes; remedial or maintenance sediment removal (dredging); repairing or raising the height of dams; construction of new lakes; enhancement of private lakes; or water and sewer services to lake residents. LARE does not provide funds for control of aquatic weeds or algae, except for special circumstances.

For more information about the Lake and River Enhancement program; criteria for LARE project eligibility, priority or funding levels; project application; and approval procedure, contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), or the IDNR Division of Soil Conservation at 317/233-3870, or access the Division's Web site at www.state.in.us/dnr/soilcons.



The Department of Natural Resources prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above or desire further information, contact the DNR, Executive Office, 402 West Washington Street, Room W-256, Indianapolis, IN 46204 (317-232-4020).



***A Component of
Clean Water Indiana***

DNR

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What is the Lake and River Enhancement Program?

Over 100 million tons of soil erodes annually from Indiana's landscape. Much of that soil enters lakes, streams, reservoirs, and rivers as sediment.

Sedimentation of lakes, streams, reservoirs, and rivers reduces storage capacity, which affects water supply, flood water retention, recreational use, and aquatic life. In addition, chemicals associated with eroded soil can cause excessive aquatic plant and algae growth, hasten eutrophication (lake aging), and pollute the water.

Sedimentation and associated nutrient problems are expensive as well as destructive to lakes, streams, reservoirs, and rivers. They depreciate property values and impair lake and stream use. Costs of sediment removal, water treatment, and property repair are often substantial. It's cheaper to prevent these problems than to correct them.

The Lake and River Enhancement program (LARE) is designed to do just that, ensuring continued viability of Indiana's public-access lakes, streams, reservoirs, and rivers. LARE program goals include: (a) controlling inflows of eroded soil and associated nutrients to lakes, streams, reservoirs, and rivers and (b) where appropriate, forestalling or reversing degradation from these inflows through remedial action.

To accomplish these goals, DNR's Division of Soil Conservation provides technical and financial assistance to qualified projects. Such projects include study, design and construction activities in a lake or stream itself and land treatment practices within the contributing watersheds.

A \$5 annual boat fee finances LARE. Since its inception in 1988, the program typically has provided over \$800,000 annually in grants and cost-share assistance to projects involving more than 125 lakes and 30 stream or river watersheds in over 40 counties.

Types of LARE Projects

Funding requests for LARE projects are made by local entities, such as lake associations, planning and development organizations, or governmental units. Grant recipients may use LARE monies for one or more of the following purposes:

- preliminary lake or stream studies,
- lake or stream diagnostic studies,
- lake or stream strategic management plans,
- engineering feasibility studies,
- engineering design studies,
- construction projects (e.g., wetlands, shoreline or streambank stabilization),
- construction project performance appraisals,
- watershed land treatment projects,
- watershed land treatment project summaries,
- water quality monitoring, or
- under certain conditions, the Lake and River Enhancement program can grant funds to conduct pilot investigations, establish innovative demonstration projects, supplement federal grant dollars, or address unique sediment or nutrient inflow problems.